

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 5, 21, 22, 24, 26, 29 and 30 to correct informalities. Claim 5 was amended to correct a typographical/grammatical error, claim 22 was amended for consistency and claims 21, 24, 26, 29 and 30 were amended to provide proper antecedent basis. As discussed below, the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by way of the amendments.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 5, 21, 24, 26, 29, and 30 because of informalities. Claim 5 was objected to for having a typographical/grammatical error and claims 21, 24, 26, 29 and 30 were objected to for lack of antecedent basis. Claim 5 was amended to read "if more than one parameter mappings point to the same target," and no longer contains a typographical/grammatical error. Claims 21, 24, 26, 29, and 30 were amended to add proper antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 5, 21, 24, 26, 29, and 30.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 1-17¹, 19-20, and 24-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Publication Number 2004/0034615 to Thomson et al., hereinafter referred to as Thomson. Claims 18 and 21-23 have

¹ It is noted that claims 3, 4, and 16 were canceled, and therefore appear to be erroneously rejected.

been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomson in view of US Patent 5,682,526 to Smokoff.

In response, Applicants file herewith a declaration under 37 CFR § 1.131. Applicants note that the declaration shows possession of the subject matter falling within the claims prior to the effective date of Thomson. Hence, Applicants submit that invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the effective date of the Thomson reference is established. Therefore, Thomson does not qualify as prior art against this application. Because both the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections rely on Thomson, which no longer qualifies as prior art, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment and Response to Final Office Action be considered by the Examiner, placing the pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim objections, the § 102(e) and 103(a) rejections, and allowance of pending claims 1-2, 5-15, and 17-31.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment and Response to Final Office Action, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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